S. May - April 15. 53

Boston, March 31. 1853.

Dear Mr. Webb,

I take the first opportunity I have been able to command, to acknowledge & reply to yours of 11th inst., and to set various matters straight, as far as may be. —

Our "Bell Box" (that is the best name for it) finally went off in the Ship "Parliament", March 22d, as I wrote you by Steamship the week previous that I expected. By the "P.", I sent a brief letter enclosing a Bill of Lading, the duplicate of which I send in this. — I hope you will get the Box as soon as you do this letter. I am concerned to see what a heavy duty your Government makes you pay on last year's Bell Box. Is there no way of getting this remitted, when, as in this instance, the ~~articles~~ books, &c. are not for sale, or to be republished? — You will observe that your Acc't has come to my hand, showing a balance in your hands, the 11th of March curt, of £13.16.6; not much more than you will need for the box now on its way to you. I will, of course, take charge of forwarding to the several papers the subscriptions received by you. Mr. Garrison is a little puzzled how to appropriate the £1., sent by "Pacifica" for the "Wife & Mother" — as a kindred spirit of Pacifica's had already paid for the Lib. to go to the poor woman for 1 year, & several others had offered to do so — besides, that Mr. G. had determined to send the paper, if no pay for it had been rec'd. He spoke of returning ~~it~~ the £1. to Pacifica. You may consult her, if you please, what shall be done with it, & let me know when you are writing. — Mr. G. was much gratified & touched by P.'s communication; about 2 days after I handed it to him, he received one from Edinburgh, in the same spirit; — the two letters quite comforted his soul. He means to print them together in next Lib. — — Henry C. Wright is here now. —

The account, which you speak of having forwarded to us 12th of May, 1852, never reached us, to the best of our knowledge & belief. It could not have come to either Mr. Wallcut or myself. Mr. W. has kept your previous accounts, (which Anne W. sent to him), and would not have forgotten or lost this; nor could I have done so, I am sure. — It was well, therefore, that you went back to Nov. 1851, in your present acct. — I am happy to say the "Advocates" seem to be on a right footing now. Mr. Wallcut duly recd. the parcels sent to him, supplying back numbers. You must charge all your subscribers here three shillings each paper — i.e. two for the paper, & one for postage. That was our original understanding, & the paper is very cheap at that. I have been paid that sum for nearly all the papers, & shall be for the rest; so that you may appropriate, out of any A. S. money of ours in your hands, $16.50 [or, at $4.80 the pd. stg, £3, 8. 9, if I am right] for the 22 papers thus far ordered, and I will pay that amount when & where you say. — In future, if you please, we shd. like to have your account made up to 1st Jan. of each year, & sent as soon as possible after that; it will then reach us, before the Annual Bazaar Account is closed up, & balance paid over. — I had the pleasure of paying over for Amn. Socy., this year, — i.e. the Bazaar avails — $3160.72, besides $50. appropd. for Fugitive Slaves, by special request of some of the Donors to the London Box, — & $200., the Annl. subscription of the Female Antislavery Socy of Boston, for 100 Copies Libr., for gratuitous distribution. As this last fact might alarm some timid spirits, you can use your discretion about mentioning it. —

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe sailed yesterday in the Br. Mail Packet for Liverpool. Mr. Garrison intended to have had an interview with her before leaving. But, as no oppy. for this seemed to offer, he did * what perhaps was better under the circumstances, — he wrote her a full letter, stating the character of the Assocn. in Glasgow wh. had invited her, — that they were a Secession, on narrow & bigoted grounds,

* I shd. have said, that Mrs. Stowe came & repeatedly to the Antislavery Office, & had somewhat long conversations with Garrison.

from the old & faithful Society there; he sent her also some pamphlets, on both sides the question, which had been sent over for that purpose by Andrew Paton; among these were Guthrie's little pamphlet, & Mr Estlin's pamphlet (printed at Paris), &c. He begged her to give the several documents an attentive perusal — said ~~he~~ we asked no favours of her, — did not ask or wish her to smother a single feeling, conviction, or opinion of her soul; — but begged her not to allow herself to be made a cat's paw of, by these Glasgow gentry, & ~~first~~ told her that he had no doubt, in his own mind, that they meant to do so, if they could. — We consider it a favourable fact that she declined the free passage, to Glasgow direct, in Ship which went only last Saturday from N. York, — & took the Steamer to Liverpool, the following Wednesday. Difference in point of health cd not have made this change. Doubtless she was very willing to have the public & distinguished greeting, awaiting her in Liverpool. But it shows she is not going to put herself into Dr. Wardlaw's hands. We feel quite hopeful of her course, & its result. — Mais, nous verrons. — Some weeks since she wrote a beautiful Note to Garrison, — in which she said that before meeting him, & when first coming to our office, she felt ~~as~~ as if ~~[illegible]~~ going to see a wolf among wolves [think how hard these priests have lied about us, & how far the influence of their lies has gone!] — but after repeated interviews, she had come to take quite a different view of him, and she now thought that, ~~[illegible]~~ while Mr. G. ~~is~~ perhaps to be regarded as a sheep in wolf's clothing, his traducers & enemies are certainly wolves in sheep's clothing. — I wish you could see the whole Note.* —

— We shall look with deep interest at the Chronicle of her arrival & progress through your Kingdom. — Her "Key" is not yet published. The 10th April is now fixed for it. Sixty thousand copies, at half a dollar each, ~~are~~ to be the 1st Edition. —

We are not only satisfied, but highly pleased, with the getting out a Second Edition of E. Quincy's pamphlet. — I think Mr. Garrison will yet write to Mr. Chesson, if a good occasion offers. It takes a considerable provocation, to set him on letter-writing. Mr Estlin has most kindly given me, & through me our "elect", as he calls them, some interesting & valuable information about the Broad St. Comee, the Reporter, ~~the~~ Mr Chamerovzow, — & E. Mathews. — As Mr. E.

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may like to see what I have said about Mrs. Stowe, perhaps you will send this for his perusal, as I may not be able to write it in full to him.— I intend to write to him in a few days.— I suppose you have heard that Mrs Stowe designs to be the guest of Mrs. Chapman in Paris. I hope this will be so. I have the impression that Mrs. Follen also has had some correspondence with Mrs. Stowe

John Scoble is, or lately was, in New York. He managed to get Gay to retract some things which had been said of him in a former "Standard". I wrote to G. cautioning him how he made any statement on Scoble's authority, & expressing my own ~~regret that~~ fear that he had conceded to Scoble too much.—

You will see that the Liberator has published the Dublin Address & Proceedings of Meeting— & that the Standard too noticed it.—

In Mrs. Stowe's party, besides her husband, was Rev. Charles Beecher, one of her brothers, the author of a Sermon entitled "Duty of Disobedience to Wicked Laws".

We are hoping to build up the "Standard" this year, & give to it new life and an extended influence. Oliver Johnson has taken leave of the readers of the Pa. Freeman, in a very appropriate manner, & in May will become associated with S. H. G. in the ~~daily edit~~ management & editing of the Stand'd. We are going to try to hold our Annual Meeting in New York this year; a Hall is engaged, which however W. L. G. says will be refused to us at the last moment. Every one, but he, is hopeful of a quiet & good meeting in New York; but I confess there is, in my mind, an uncertainty about it.—

Mr. Garrison is removing his family to another house in the city, where he hopes to find a permanent home; where it would delight him, I needn't tell you, to see and welcome you, and all the other Irish, English, & Scotch friends, who are so dear to him. In about 2 weeks, he goes away for a month's absence— to Cincinnati (on the very borders of Slave Territory), where he never has been, & to other parts of the State of Ohio.—

Mrs. Stowe has a plan (this is not to come from us) of using the Moneys she may obtain in ~~Gt. Britain~~ Europe for founding & endowing an Institute or Academy to be located in Central New York— for the Education of Colored Youth of both Sexes as Teachers— not to be confined either to the Colored, but open to all who will come with them. This, she thinks, will be Uncle Tom's best Monument.— Mr. G. thought favourably of it, but suggested that it was of the first & highest importance to appropriate it in such a way as would make it tell most powerfully against the System itself of Slavery.— I hope Mrs. Haughton R. Allen, & your brother, haven't quite forgotten me. Dublin is a green & pleasant spot in my memory.

Most Truly, Yours Saml. May Jr.

Ms.B.1.6 v.4,p.63